

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 181106Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 033

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S CONTINUED DISCOMFORT OVER PRESENCE OF PRAPHAT
AND NARONG

REF: TAIPEI 6294

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 18
PREMIER CHIANG DESCRIBED CONTINUED PRESENCE IN
TAIPEI OF PRAPHAT AND NARONG AS "HOT POTATO". ALTHOUGH
CCK DISPLAYED HUMANITARIAN AND FRIENDLY
FEELING TOWARD UNEXPECTED VISITORS HE WAS CLEARLY
ANXIOUS THAT BOTH MEN MOVE ON AND NOT BECOME AN ISSUE
COMPLICATING ROC/THAI RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT IF THEY
DO NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY HE WAS INCLINED TO SUGGEST QUITE
FRANKLY TO THEM THAT THEY DO SO. HOWEVER HE INTENDED TO
WAIT A FEW DAYS.

2. CCK CONFIRMED THAT PRAPHAT AND NARONG HAVE MOVED
FROM THE HIGHLY VISIBLE GRAND HOTEL TO A PRIVATE HOUSE.
THEY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF A "TEMPORARY STAY" BUT HAVE NOT
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MENTIONED EITHER A DATE OF DEPARTURE OR ONWARD DESTINATION.

(ALTHOUGH ROC ALLOWED NEWS OF PRAPHAT'S PRESENCE TO LEAK TO PRESS IN WAY SATISFACTORY TO ROC, PRAPHAT HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN TAIPEI, AND WE UNDERSTAND ROC HAS URGED HIM NOT TO MAKE REMARKS WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE ROC/THAI RELATIONS).

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO PROVIDED CCK WITH GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THAI SITUATION AND ORIENTATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AS PROVIDED IN NUMEROUS HELPFUL MESSAGES FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK. CCK SAID THAT THESE VIEWS WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ROC EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE START THE PREMIER AND ALL ROC OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT HAVE RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE THAT MIGHT OCCUR IF THEY SHOULD MISHANDLE THE PRAPHAT/NARONG SITUATION. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR IN NO WAY IMPLIED HE WAS CONVEYING OFFICIAL US ADVICE TO THE ROC, HE UNDERSCORED THE DANGERS FOR THE ROC BY INFORMING THE PREMIER THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION AMONG SOME GROUPS IN BANGKOK OF ATTEMPTING TO EXTRADITE THANOM, PRAPHAT AND NARONG FOR TRIAL.

MCCONAUGHY

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